

ROASTING SYSTEM

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An apparatus and method of roasting foodstuff such  
as coffee beans employ a roasting chamber for roasting the  
beans. An air circulation system operatively coupled with the  
chamber flows heated air over the beans and thereby roasts the  
beans, and an air cleaning arrangement is operatively coupled  
10 with the air circulation system and located downstream of the  
chamber for removing substantially all particulates, smoke and  
volatiles entrained in the used air as it flows through the  
container and into the air cleaning arrangement to provide  
substantially pollutant-free used air. The circulation system  
15 uses atmospheric air and heats, cleans and cools it within as  
little as 1/4 second. Sensors and a electronic controller are  
provided to monitor various parameters in the roasting  
apparatus and control the roasting characteristics. The  
darkness and/or color of the beans during roasting is  
monitored to ensure proper roasting. The roasting in roasting  
20 machines at a plurality of geographically separate locations  
is controlled by equipping each roasting machine with a  
computer with memory and providing a central control station  
for downloading control signals to the computer to control  
roasting.